

4 Results

4.1 Stakeholders, Needs & Issues By County

This section of the document contains the results from the information-gathering process within each county. **Important Note:** In many of the meetings held in individual counties, there were issues brought up which are not consortium issues, or issues that can or should be addressed at the consortium level. These concerns have all been documented in the meeting minutes from those meetings (which all appear in an appendix to this document), but they may not be repeated or documented in this section. The concentration in this document was on items relevant to and addressable by the consortium.

Appendix D – Radio Inventory Summary contains a detailed listing of the radio inventories of those agencies who answered questionnaires. If questionnaires were not answered, there may not be an entry for those agencies. The one notable exception is Fallon County, where Chuck Lee sent the Project Manager a good deal of information about radios in that county.

4.1.10 Powder River County

County Representative: John Blain, Sheriff, Powder River County. 406-436-2333

Number Of County Stakeholder Questionnaires Returned: 4

Number Of County Agencies Represented By Questionnaires: 4

4.1.10.1 County Stakeholder Interactions

The following matrix details the major stakeholders in the county and how they interact with each other.

[illegible]

Figure 24 – Communication Interactions, Powder River County



4.1.10.2 Questionnaire Results

Belle Creek Fire District

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

5/24/05

Location of Agency:

Belle Creek, MT, Powder River County.

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

*Rob Strackbein
Kevin Johnson
Chester Bruce
John Blain*

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

Gray Channel

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

*Gray Channel – Belle Creek Fire District Only Repeater
W. Butte – Powder River Co. Repeater
Home Creek – Powder River Co. Repeater*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

85%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

85%

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?



Severe terrain.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

75%. No.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

5

B. Number of Portable Unit:

6

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Powder River Co. SO. Also, Encore (Oil Field Office) dispatch the local oil field hands in company trucks.

B. From where?

Broadus

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

1

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not during fire season.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

W. Butte repeater, Home Creek repeater.

8. What is good about your current system?

Paid for and it works.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Belle Creek Fire needs better communication with Broadus PSAP. Belle Creek Fire needs pagers (10) or pageable radios.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Campbell and Crook Counties, Wyoming.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Day to day – quiet.

Emergency confusion – Lac of use uneducated – Need simple, easy to use pagers to get everyone notified sooner.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.



1. Need pagers for all volunteers.
2. Need pageable handheld radios.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. All of the above.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Jesse Ambulance Service

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

Not answered.

Location of Agency:

*201 E. Holt
Broadus, MT 59317
PO Box 236
436-2225*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Completed by Cindy Jesse Graff

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

Mobile 16 channels/Both simplex/Duplex

*Handheld – 2, 16 ch.,
4 ch.
12 - ? ch.
See attached.*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

See attached.

Attached:

Amb. Mobile

*Channel 1 – 155.280
Channel 2 – 154.830
Channel 3 – 151.115
Channel 4 – 155.385
Channel 5 – 155.025
Channel 6 – 155.340
Channel 7 – 155.295
Channel 8 – 153.905
Channel 9 – 154.830*



Channel 10 – 154.830

Channel 11 – 158.760

Channel 12 – 155.385

Channel 13 – 155.325

Channel 14 – 155.340

Channel 15 – 162.550

Channel 16 – 162.400

<i>Channel #</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>EMS Local</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Local S.O.</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Cty Road Repeater Dup.</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>EMS-Sturgis</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Alzada Repeater Dup.</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>EMS-Spearfish</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>WYO-EMS</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Mutual Aid</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>Home Cr. Repeater Dup.</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>W. Butte Repeater Dup.</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>SD Emerg.-SPFH Control</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>EMS-East Dispatch-Page</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>EMS-Central Dispatch-Page</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>EMS-Regional</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>WX</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>WX</i>

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

75%?

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Could be better.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Yes.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.



E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No. Maybe.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

2

B. Number of Portable Unit:

2 Blk

12 Fr

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

9-1-1- @ S.O. – Contact EMS via phone/radio.

B. From where?

S.O. 9-1-1

Also clinic & nursing home

C. Hardware Used?

Base station – 1976 Motorola

D. Number of Positions?

Unk.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

New base @ S.O.

Lightning an issue.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

No.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered.

8. What is good about your current system?

It works most of the time.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Aging equipment.

Lack of EMD

Out of state issues

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

S.O./BVFD/FR/PR Clinic/PR Manor

B. On an emergency basis:

S.O./BVFD/MHP/FR/DES/PRC/HRH/other hospitals.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Day to day – mostly telephone.

Emergencies – Contact S.O. dispatch, LE officers, BVFD (MVAs) then med. Director and/or hospital. – ALS units.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1.** Pt. Info to hosp./PRC – secure HIPAA compliant.
- 2.** Paging and/or call alert



3. Location information
4. EMD
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. Affordability
2. Reliability
3. Maintenance
4. QI/QA
5. Security

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Powder River County Road Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

Not answered.

Location of Agency:

1 mile east of Broadus, MT

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Bob Smith – Road Dept.

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

Not answered.

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Not answered.

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

60%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Not what we would like.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Severe terrain, gaps.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Yes. Better coverage.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No. Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

11

B. Number of Portable Unit:

15

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

Not answered.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

We do not have dispatch. We can use sheriff dept. dispatch.

B. From where?

Wherever signal allows.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

Not answered.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

*School
Fire Dept.
First Responders*

8. What is good about your current system?

Better than no system.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

*Coverage
Channel congestion
Obsolete and/or aging equipment*

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

School, Sheriff, Fire Dept., Forest Service

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Not answered.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

Not answered.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



- 13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.**

Not answered.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- 14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.**

Not answered.



Powder River County Sheriff's Office

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

5/4/05

Location of Agency:

*Court House
Broadus, MT
Powder River County*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Not answered.

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*3
#1 – Sheriff Direct
#2 – Home Creek Repeater
#3 – W. Butte Repeater*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Law Enforcement

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

75-80%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

75-80%

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Terrain. Low spots along the river north and south.



D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Yes. Possible taller towers on Home Creek & W. Butte or add more repeaters.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No. Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

3

B. Number of Portable Unit:

5

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

24-7, 1-seat, basic dispatch operation.

B. From where?

Sheriff's Office

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

1

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

During heavy fire season, some times one dispatch is inadequate. If we had a 2-seat it would make it much easier to cover the heavy seasons.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Home creek & W. Butte are used by Fire & EMS because the repeaters that they have do not always adequately cover for the services they provide. The SO also uses the Road Dept./Bus/Fire repeater along w/ EMS repeater on occasion when needed.

8. What is good about your current system?

It's paid for. Low maintenance.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

The SO does not have radio contact with Rosebud, MT, Custer, MT, Campbell, WY counties. We only have 75-80 coverage in Powder River Co. We do not have encryption. Most of the equipment is old.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

For the most, the day-to-day stuff is covered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Neighboring counties.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

The day-to-day works well. In emergencies the radios are congested with multi-department dispatched through 1-seat center. In remote areas sometimes the mobiles & portables will not hit a repeater.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. Encryption
2. Coverage in the corners
3. More channel capacity in Base radio
4. More channel capacity in mobile radios.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. Affordability
2. Simplicity
3. Reliability
4. Maintainability
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Without encryption it would be nice to have cell phones in the units to communicate in private. Scanners are a problem in our community.

4.1.10.3 County Concerns or Issues

1. Communications Improvements

The following pie chart depicts the communications improvements desired by the responding stakeholders in this county:

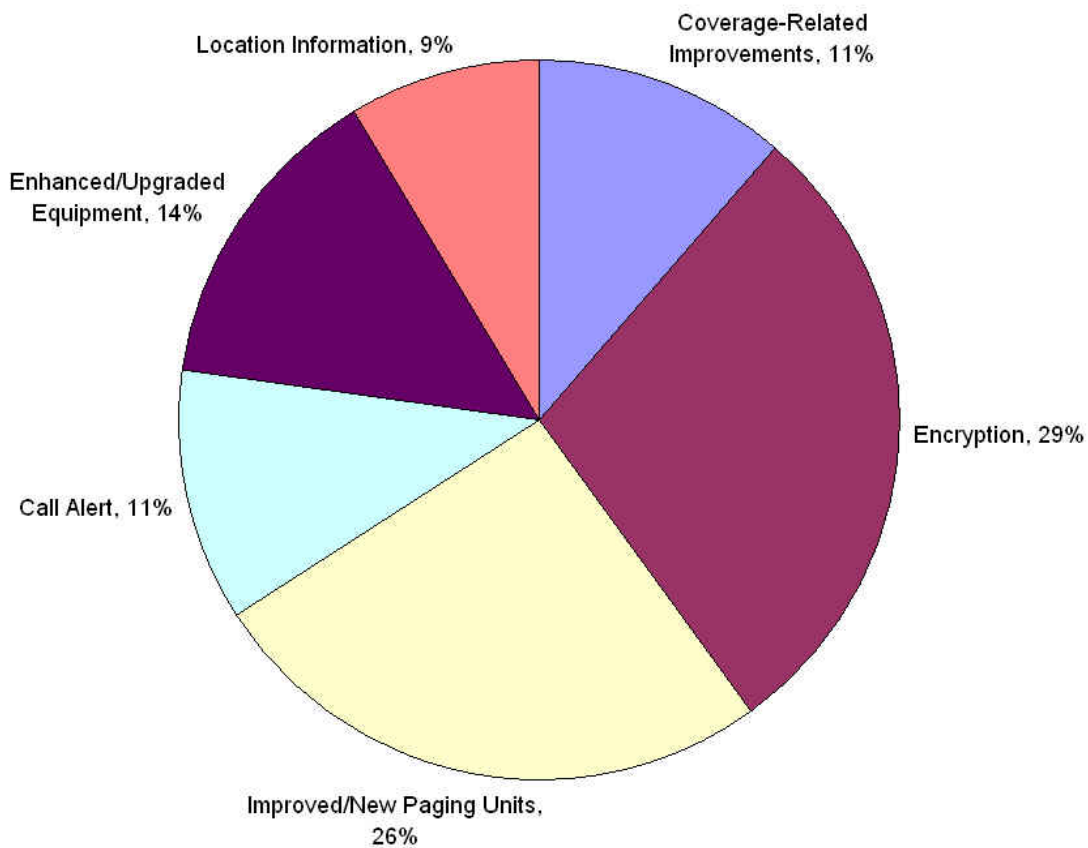


Figure 25 – Communications Improvements, Powder River County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five communications improvements they would like to see. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower. A percentage was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five “wedges,” this means the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

2. Success Factors

The following chart depicts the success factors considered critical by the responding stakeholders in this county in order for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful.

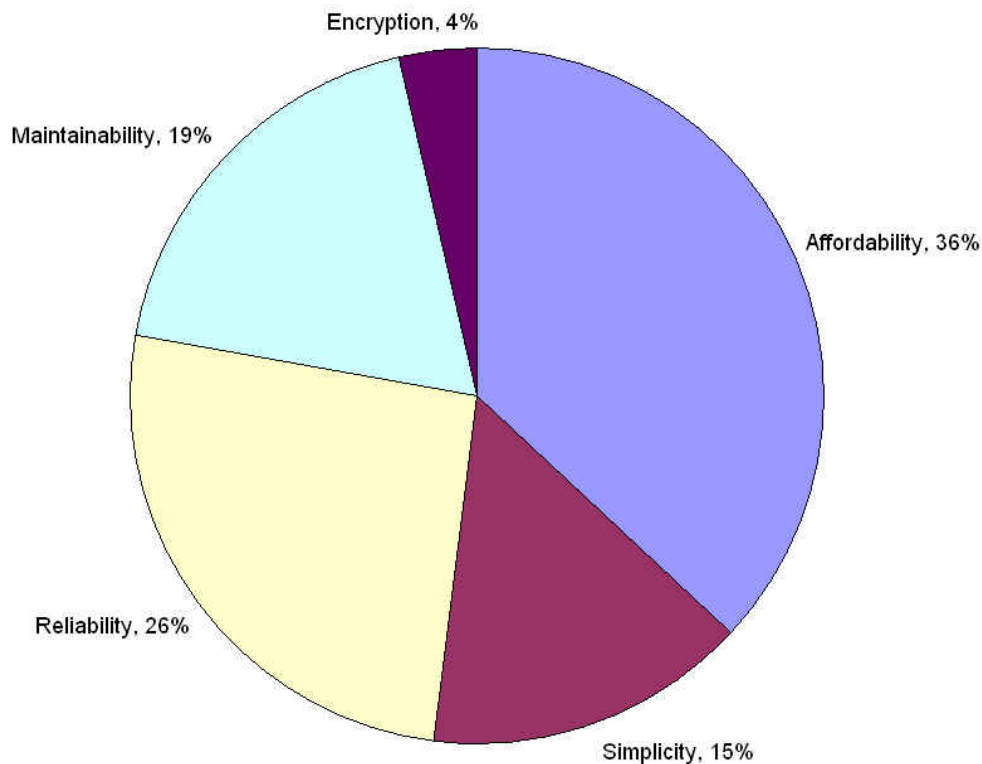


Figure 26 – Critical Success Factors, Powder River County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five factors they felt were most necessary for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower, in order to give higher-ranked items more weight. A percentage for each item was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five items (“wedges”), this indicates the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

Some of the same items often appear in both the communications improvements chart and the critical success factors chart. This indicates that these items are very important to the stakeholders.

3. Major Dead Spots

1. The area near Biddle, MT, in the southeastern portion of the county.
2. The valley of the Powder River.

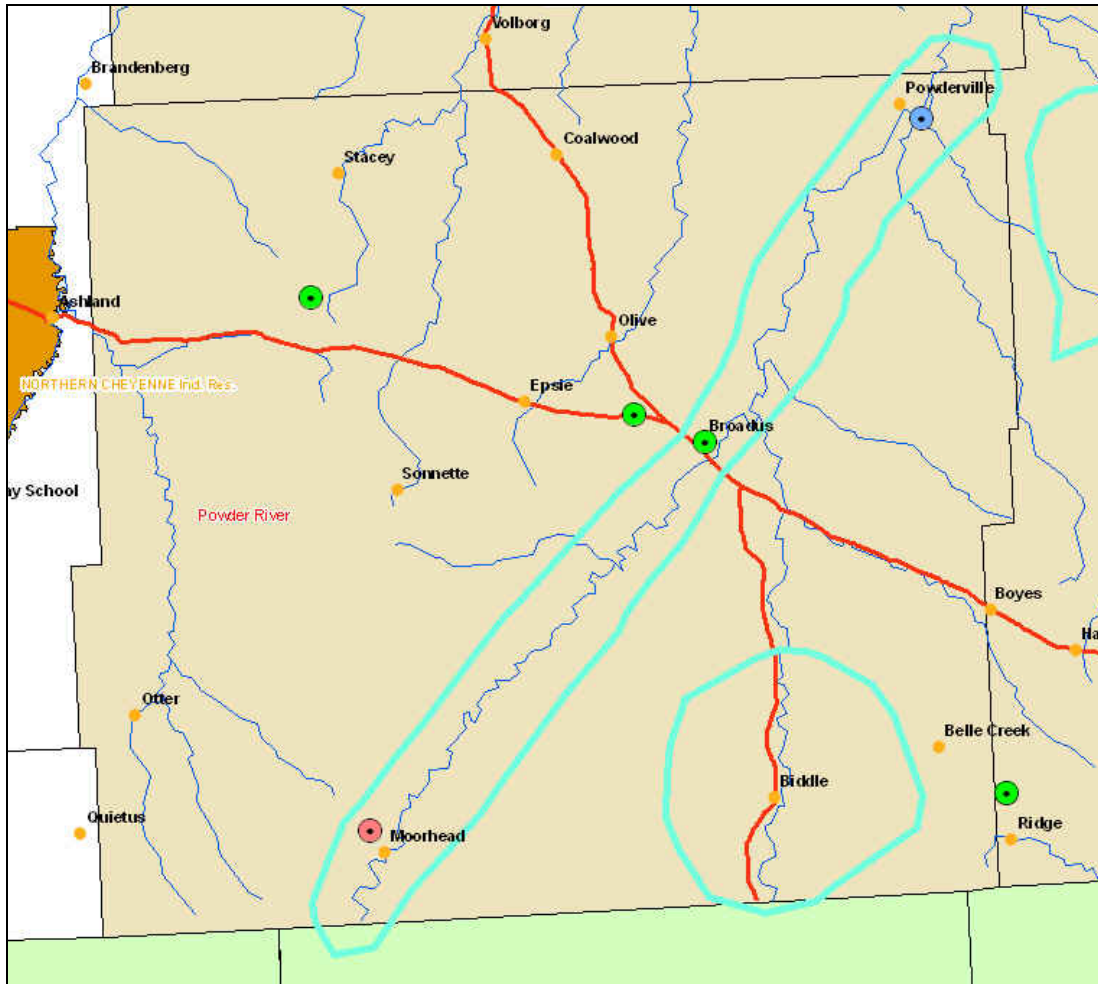


Figure 27 – Dead Spots, Powder River County

Note: Location of “dead spots” is very approximate. In addition, some areas within the dead spots will have better reception than others.

11. The Belle Creek and Biddle Fire Districts have old, possibly non-functioning equipment. There is a desire to see those areas become better capable of supporting the needs for fire protection in those parts of the county.